

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: PCT/EP03/050252

Applicant: Guido RIBI

Docket No.: KAR 008

Customer No.: 000039232

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted according to the terms of 37 CFR 1.115 and MPEP 714.01(e). Please amend the above-identified national stage application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 13 of this paper, and include both attached replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 14 of this paper.

The **Conclusion** is at page 16 of this paper.

A **Substitute Specification** and a **Marked Up Version of the Specification** are attached following page 21 of this paper.